

FORWARD

“You cannot educate a child who is not healthy and you cannot keep a child healthy who is not educated”
-Former Surgeon General Jocelyn Elders, *School Nurse Perspectives*, “Exploring School Nursing”, by
G. Harvey, RN, Med., @ <http://snp.homestead.com>

The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, reformed the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), redefining the federal role in K-12 education and aiding in closing the achievement gap between disadvantaged and minority students and their peers (United States Department of Education, 2002). The United States Department of Education (2002) explains this act is “based on four basic principles: stronger accountability for results, increased flexibility and local control, expanded options for parents, and emphasis on teaching methods that have been proven to work.” Since a close relationship exists between education and health, both physical and mental, coordinated school health programs greatly compliment the efforts of the No Child Left Behind Act.

Good health is the absence of disease and complete physical, mental and social well-being. Kentucky ranks thirty-sixth in the nation in terms of childhood well-being. Research is clear that education and lifestyle patterns set in childhood determine both health and school achievement. The Kentucky Board of Education calls for a coordinated health effort accepted and championed by parents and citizens, implemented in the school, promoted and supplemented by public health, supported through coordination and technical assistance and adequately funded by lawmakers.

Recognizing that educational and physical needs of children cannot be separated, the 2002 General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky created a new section of [KRS Chapter 156](#) directing the Department of Education to provide leadership and assistance to local school districts relating to student health services. The Health Service Reference Guide (HRSRG) has been compiled to serve as a resource guide to local school districts in the creation and delivery of student health services.

The Kentucky Department of Education utilizes the mission statement of the Kentucky Board of Education. The mission statements of the [Kentucky Board of Education](#), the [Kentucky Department for Public Health](#), and the [Kentucky School Board Association](#) are included below to acknowledge their collaborative partnership in the development of this reference guide.

Kentucky Board of Education

The mission of the Kentucky Board of Education is to focus the efforts of the Kentucky Department of Education, local schools, districts and partners in public education to assist all schools to meet proficiency by 2014 and to assure that each child is given the maximum opportunity to achieve at high levels. The complementary mission of the Kentucky Department of Education, as the national catalyst for educational transformation, is to assure for each child an internationally superior education and love of learning-through visionary leadership, vigorous stewardship, and exemplary services in alliance with schools, school districts, and other partners.

Kentucky Department for Public Health

The Kentucky Department for Public Health mission is to protect, promote, and monitor the improvement of the health of the public. The mission of local health departments is to protect and ensure the health of citizens through quality individual and population-based services.

Kentucky School Board Association

The Kentucky School Board Association (KSBA) mission is to provide advocacy, consultation, information, and professional development district support services for local school board members as well as district and school staff. The KSBA Strategic Objectives for 2003-2004 are:

- Every public school board will govern effectively and with integrity.
- Every public school board member will understand and emphasize student achievement.
- Every public school board will practice good stewardship of resources.

The Health Service Reference Guide is meant to comply with [KRS 156.501](#) and [156.502](#) and to assure school staff will deliver quality health services to all Kentucky public school students. The Health Services Reference Guide strives to provide school personnel and administrators with a convenient reference for their development of district policies and procedures pertaining to health services.

The Health Services Guide was developed under the leadership of the Kentucky Department of Education Coordinated School Health Program in collaboration with the Kentucky Department for Public Health, Kentucky School Board Association and the Kentucky Board of Nursing. Many highly qualified professionals of diverse backgrounds and expertise assisted with the content of this reference guide.